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Control: 2523

Rec'd: November 7, 1962  
5:55 p.m.

FROM: New York

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1661, November 7, 6 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State 7/25/77  
By JK, NARS, Date 8/11/77

PRIORITY

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE.

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY

CUBA

BUNCHE WAS SENT BY SYG THIS MORNING TO CONVEY TO STEVENSON VERY PRIVATELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY NEW SUGGESTION FOR ON-SITE VERIFICATION IN CUBA.

SYG IS CONVINCED THAT MIKOYAN HAS HAD NO SUCCESS IN PERSUADING CASTRO TO ACCEPT UN VERIFICATION ON THE GROUND. SYG IS THEREFORE THINKING OF SENDING PRIVATE APPEAL TO CASTRO PROPOSING THAT LATTER INVITE AMBASSADORS IN HAVANA OF FIVE LA COUNTRIES STILL MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA (MEXICO, BRAZIL, CHILE, BOLIVIA AND URUGUAY) TO PERFORM "AFTER THE FACT" VERIFICATION OF EVACUATION OF SITES AND PACKING AND SHIPMENT OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT THAT THIS PROPOSAL APPEAR TO EMANATE ENTIRELY FROM CASTRO AND THAT SYG'S INITIATIVE THEREFORE BE VERY CLOSELY HELD. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THIS APPROACH, HE HAD WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER US BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

STEVENSON REPLIED BY DESCRIBING "ALONG SIDE" INSPECTION OF OUTGOING WEAPONS WHICH WE ARE ARRANGING WITH SOVS BUT ADDED HE THOUGHT PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY SYG WOULD BE USEFUL SUPPLEMENT. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING, WHICH BUNCHE CONFIRMED, THAT THIS VERIFICATION BY AMBS RELATES ONLY TO COMPLETION OF PRESENT TRANSACTION AND WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN LONGER-TERM ARRANGEMENTS. ALSO HE URGED THAT MANDATE FOR AMBS WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED TO CASTRO WOULD BE AS BROAD AS POSSIBLE, NOT BEING LIMITED TO WHAT WAS BEING SHIPPED OUT BUT BEING BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER INVESTIGATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE LEFT BEHIND, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CAVES. HE ALSO DESCRIBED CONTINUING ARGUMENTS WE WERE

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-2- 1661, November 7, 6 p.m., from New York

HAVING WITH SOVS ABOUT INCLUSION IL-28S IN CATEGORY OF OFFENSIVE WEAPONS AND EMPHASIZED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE PREJUDICED IN ANY PROPOSAL TO CASTRO.

BUNCHE SAID HE WOULD INFORM SYG OF OUR TENTATIVE VIEWS AND WOULD RECOMMEND WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT DRAFT OF PROPOSAL SYG MIGHT WISH TO DESPATCH TO CASTRO.

STEVENSON

Note: Relayed White House, 11/7/62

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